

"Unapproved" Meeting Minutes

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 30, 2006

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, November 30, 2006, at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Pro Tem Donald J. Costa at 6:35 PM, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, Wayne D. Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D,

Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by

Mr. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE moving X. Comments from the Public to before IX. Orientation of School Committee Members. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended agenda.

III. New Business

A. Election of Officers -

1. Chair - Mr. Rotella took nominations for the position of Chair. Mr. Thibodeau nominated Mr. Crowley. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. Ms. Beaulieu nominated Mr. Wood. Mr. Costa provided a second. Nominations were closed. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE Mr. Crowley as the Chair, with the following voting for Mr. Crowley: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley, Ms. MacBeth; and for Mr. Wood: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu. Mr. Crowley took over as Chair.

2. Vice Chair - Mr. Costa nominated Mr. Wood as Vice Chair. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. Ms. MacBeth nominated Mr. Thibodeau. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Nominations were closed. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE Mr. Thibodeau as the Vice Chair, with the following voting for Mr. Thibodeau: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; and for Mr. Wood: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

3. Clerk - Ms. Beaulieu nominated Mr. Wood. Mr. Costa provided a second. Mr. Wagner nominated Ms. MacBeth. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. Nominations were closed. On a roll call voted, it

was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE Ms. MacBeth as Clerk, with the following voting for Ms. MacBeth: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; and for Ms. Beaulieu: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

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B. Appointments to Sub-Committees - Mr. Costa commented that at the last meeting Mr. Crowley didn't appoint the subcommittee members because of the four-three fracture and that he was going to call everyone. The Chair commented he was told by Mr. Costa not to call him in Las Vegas and that he had talked to everyone about their choices. He thought Mr. Costa showed an interest in the Wellness policy when Dr. Monti spoke at the last meeting. The Chair made the following appointments:

Curriculum - Ms. Beaulieu, Chair; Mr. Costa, Mr. Wood

Finance - Mr. Wagner, Chair; Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Thibodeau

Property - Mr. Wood, Chair; Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wagner

Rules & Regulations - Mr. Costa, Chair; Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wood

Special Programs - Mr. Thibodeau, Chair; Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Costa

Personnel - Ms. MacBeth, Chair; Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner

Liaisons:

Ashton - Ms. Beaulieu
B.F. Norton - Mr. Crowley
Community School - Mr. Thibodeau
Cumberland High - Mr. Thibodeau
Cumberland Preschool Center - Mr. Crowley
Garvin School - Mr. Wagner
JJM Cumberland Hill - Mr. Wood
Joseph L. McCourt Middle School - Mr. Costa
North Cumberland Middle School - Ms. MacBeth
Woonsocket Vocational Technical - Ms. MacBeth
Special Education Advisory - Ms. MacBeth
Town Council Liaison - TBA pending a meeting with Mr. Higgins.

IV. Ten Minute Recess - The Chair declared a recess at 6:47 p.m. for the Finance Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Thibodeau's departure is noted at 6:47 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,175,228.85.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE awarding the snow removal contract to D. Ray Inc. of Albion. This is a two year contract (attached).

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VI. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5:

A. Hearing - Exception (8)

1. Student Suspension

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. A second was provided by Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 7:34 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Open Session: 10/12/2006, 10/26/2006**
- 2. Executive Session: 10/12/2006, 10/19/2006, 10/26/2006**
- 3. Special Meeting: 10/19/2006**

Ms. MacBeth made a motion to remove the Executive Session minutes of 10/12, 10/19, 10/26/2006. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 3-3, with the following voting

AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 3-3, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the Open Session Minutes.

Ms. MacBeth made a motion to unseal the Executive Session minutes with the exception of anything relating to student suspensions, legal actions, grievances and anything that would violate the open meeting laws. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Mr. Rotella stated the committee needed to approve the minutes before unsealing them. Discussion ensued regarding who could vote and Mr. Rotella clarified that everyone could unless they wished to recuse themselves.

Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 3-3, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

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Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 3-3, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

B. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Laura Benjamin, Grade 2 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective 1/2/2007 with a return date of 3/5/2007 and the FMLA Maternity Leave of Lisa DiGiovanni, Reading Teacher at Community School, effective 1/2/2007 with a return date of 4/9/2007.

The FMLA Medical Leave of Roberta Daniels, Teacher Assistant, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 11/29/2006 with a return date of 1/31/2007.

2. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the resignation of Stephen Driscoll, Principal at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2007. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa.

3. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Sarah McLellan,

Co-Coach Girls' Basketball, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 12/1/2006 (budgeted) and the appointment of Erin Dwyer, Co-Coach Girls' Basketball at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 12/1/2006 (budgeted).

C. Home School Instruction Request(s) - On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for home schooling.

VIII. Comments from the Public - Mr. Kelly wished the committee luck.

He cautioned and reminded committee members of their responsibility to the district, the kids, saying the campaign is over and they need to work together. He asked what the committee was trying to accomplish with the Executive Session minutes, they should approve them, keep them sealed and move on. Mr. McLaughlin suggested asking the local state representatives to a meeting to discuss the state air formula. The Chair suggested Mr. McLaughlin put a plan together and he would consider adding to an agenda.

IX. Orientation of School Committee Members - The Superintendent explained the chain of communication and the strategic direction of the district. As Dr. Morelle highlighted each department of the leadership structure she introduced the Central Leadership Team. Mr. Rotella, Director of Administration, explained he is the in-house attorney for the school department and head of Human Resources.

Dr. Carney discussed her roll as Assistant Superintendent and her work with grants, curriculum and SIT teams. Ms. Moore reported on her work in Special Education. Mr. Prignano compared his position to the financial officer of a corporation and praised the employees in the business office. The Superintendent noted the vacancy in the Director of Technology position and the work of Mr. Britto. Mr. Hilton explained as Building and Grounds Direction he not only supervises custodians and maintenance personnel, but also the maintenance of 11 buildings and the handling of environmental issues.

X. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

The Superintendent requested a brief Executive Session. Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the

motion. Open Session recessed at 10:34 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 10:47 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

XI. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee